

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application and have not been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on October 18, 2005.

However, Applicants note that the Examiner has not confirmed that he has considered the English language Abstracts of Japanese patents JP 11-85099, JP 3-183211, and JP 10-268831, which were cited in the IDS filed on July 21, 2004. Applicants thus respectfully request that the Examiner consider these Abstracts if he has not already done so, and confirm his consideration by forwarding to Applicants a properly initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form of July 21, 2004 which lists these Abstracts. Consideration of these Abstracts is submitted to be appropriate. However, if the Examiner is unable to consider these Abstracts, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss this matter.

As another matter, Applicants note that the Examiner has not yet indicated whether the drawings filed on July 24, 2003 are acceptable. Applicants thus assume that they are acceptable but nevertheless respectfully request that the Examiner confirm the acceptability of the drawings in the next Office communication.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,355) in view of Miermans (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,179). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18 recite a driving circuit which includes, inter alia, a switcher, an interconnector, and a frequency reducer connected in parallel with the switcher that is operable to reduce a resonance frequency of an LC resonance resulting from a parasitic capacitance of the switcher and an inductance component of the interconnector.

Nagai is directed towards a sustain pulse generating circuit. The sustain pulse generating circuit includes an X sustain driver 2 having first and second switch elements 22a and 22b. See Figure 1 of Nagai.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Nagai's first and second switch elements 22a and 22b correspond to Applicants' claimed switcher, and acknowledges that Nagai's X sustain driver 2 does not include a frequency reducer, as recited in Applicants' claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18.

Miermans is directed towards a switched-mode power supply. In the embodiment illustrated in Mierman's Figure 7C, the switched-mode power supply includes a dual-position switch 5, S. See Figure 7C and col. 9, lines 3-7 of Miermans. In a first position of the dual-position switch 5, S, a series arrangement of capacitor C and an inductor L is connected between input terminals 1, 2 of Miermans' power supply, and in a second position of the dual-position switch 5, S, the capacitor C and the inductor L are arranged in a parallel resonant circuit. See col. 9, lines 48-61 of Miermans.

Applicants respectfully submit that Miermans' capacitor C and inductor L are not connected in parallel with Miermans' switch 5, S, as recited in Applicants' claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18. Rather, Applicants submit that the capacitor C and inductor L are connected in series with the switch 5, S, and are only connected in parallel to each other when the dual-position switch is in its second position.

Applicants further submit that Miermans fails to disclose or suggest that the capacitor C or inductor L reduces a resonance frequency of an LC resonance resulting from a parasitic capacitance of the switcher, as recited in Applicants' claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18.

Applicants further submit that the Examiner has not suggested any motivation for combining Nagai and Miermans in the manner asserted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that no such motivation exists. At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner merely asserts that both Nagai and Miermans "teach about plasma display systems." Applicants respectfully submit that this alone does not motivate one to combine the teachings of Nagai and Miermans, as asserted by the Examiner.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Nagai and Miermans fails to disclose or suggest a driving circuit which includes a frequency reducer connected in parallel with a switcher that is operable to reduce a resonance frequency of an LC resonance resulting from a parasitic capacitance of the switcher and an inductance component of an interconnector, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18.

Applicants' claims 4-6 and 11-14 recite a driving circuit which includes, inter alia, a switcher, a first interconnector connected to the switcher, a protector, a second interconnector connected to the protector and the first interconnector, and a frequency reducing device connected in parallel with the protector that is operable to reduce a resonance frequency of an LC resonance resulting from a parasitic capacitance of the protector and an inductance component of the second interconnector.

Applicants' claim 7 recites a driving circuit which includes, inter alia, a switcher connected to a power supply, a first interconnector connected to the switcher, a protector, a second interconnector connected to the protector and the first interconnector, and a frequency reducer having a capacitive element which is connected in parallel with the protector.

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner broadly asserts that Nagai discloses a protector, corresponding to Applicants' claimed protector. However, the Examiner does not point out which component of Nagai's X sustain driver 2 he believes to be the protector. Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Nagai does not disclose a protector, as recited in Applicants' claims 4-7 and 11-14.

The Examiner acknowledges that Nagai does not disclose a frequency reducer, as recited in Applicants' claims 4-7 and 11-14. However, the Examiner asserts that Miermans teaches a switching element which is arranged to form a series or parallel resonant circuit. Applicants respectfully submit that Miermans does not disclose a frequency reducer which is connected in parallel with a

protector and reduces a resonance frequency of an LC resonance resulting from a parasitic capacitance of the protector and an inductance component of an interconnector which is connected to the protector and an interconnector connected to a switcher, as recited in Applicants' claims 4-6, or a frequency reducer having a capacitive element connected in parallel with a protector, as recited in Applicants' claim 7. Although the Examiner rejected claims 4-7 and 11-14, the Examiner did not explain how (or even assert that) Miermans discloses this combination of features. As discussed above, it is submitted that Miermans merely discloses a dual-position switch 5, S which is connected to a capacitor C and an inductor L.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Nagai and Miermans fails to disclose or suggest a driving circuit which includes a protector, and a frequency reducing device connected in parallel with the protector that is operable to reduce a resonance frequency of an LC resonance resulting from a parasitic capacitance of the protector and an inductance component of an interconnector connected to the protector and an interconnector connected to a switcher, as recited in Applicants' claims 4-6 and 11-14.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Nagai and Miermans also fails to disclose or suggest a driving circuit which includes a protector, and a frequency reducing device having a capacitive element connected in parallel with the protector, as recited in Applicants' claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-18 is improper, and request withdrawal of the rejection.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

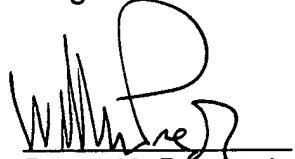
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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